

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 27 1984

JAN 11 1985

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

U. S. Post Office

AND/OR COMMON

Los Angeles, Hollywood Station, Post Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1615 N. Wilcox Ave.

NA NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

24

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

X Thematic
Group

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

NA PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED
X YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
X GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY

MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Postal Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

850 Cherry Ave.

CITY, TOWN

San Bruno

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

CA 94099

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Recorder

STREET & NUMBER

277 N. Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

STATE

CA 90017

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Hollywood Cultural Resources Survey

DATE

1981

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

California Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 2390

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

STATE

CA 95811

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>NA</u>

4/27/84

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hollywood Station is a reinforced concrete building with a flat asphalt composition roof. Ornament is restrained and is limited to fluting and floral patterns cast into the concrete. The combination of simplified forms with limited classical ornament identifies the building as an example of the Starved Classical style.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Hollywood is within the corporate boundaries of the City of Los Angeles, roughly six miles northwest of Downtown Los Angeles. The Hollywood Post Office is located a half block south of Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood's main commercial street. Surrounding uses are primarily one-and-two story mixed commercial and residential structures.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The front elevation is symmetrical, and consists of a central one-and-a-half story portion that projects forward from two single-story wings. The central portion consists of five large window openings separated by fluted piers. Round floral medallions are placed above each pier, and an elaborate high relief floral frieze encircles the central portion. The cornice is set back two steps, and ornamented by a series of thin, low relief shapes resembling a long row of blance-manges. The projecting wings are pierced with three window openings, surrounded by fluting resembling that on the central piers. The same floral frieze runs along the cornice of the side wings as in the central portion. The south elevation contains an entrance into the public lobby, and is decorated with fluting and friezes similar to the front elevation.

The building is reinforced concrete, with concrete "cast stone" ornament. The original bronze and glass doors and bronze light fixtures remain in place on the front entrance. The exterior walls are painted a light beige, and the cast ornament a dark chocolate brown.

The public lobby occupies the eastern portion of the building, with the service counters located on the west wall. The floor is paved with red, green, and yellow terrazzo, and has a fossiliferous limestone wainscoting and fluted marble pilasters. The workroom has a hardwood floor and plaster walls. The original wrought iron registers were retained when HVAC improvements were made, though the original lighting has been replaced with bare fluorescent bulbs. A relief sculpture, carved in Phillippine Mahogany, is located on the north end of the lobby.

ALTERATIONS

An access ramp for the handicapped was added in the 1960s, and additional workroom spaces was added.

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Hollywood Station

Item 7

SCULPTURE

The lobby contains a mahogany relief panel, depicting a person holding the reins of two horses. Local post office employees and patrons identify the iconographic content as a Pony Express rider. This explanation is doubtful, since the panel depicts a bucking horse with a heavy saddle and no mail bags, but no further information could be uncovered at the post office which would provide a more accurate identification.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **Begun, completed 1937.** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Claude**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Though the Hollywood Station is not yet 50 years old it possesses exceptional significance based on its importance to the Hollywood area, and as a rare, intact example of the Starved Classical. The additions to the workroom are the only significant exterior modifications, and are not visible from the street. The interior is likewise in an excellent state of preservation and is a good example of a Starved Classical interior.

ARCHITECTURE

The combination of the building's significance as an example of Starved Classicism in small, single purpose post offices and of the Treasury Relief Art Project sculpture in the lobby forms an exceptionally significant and distinguishable entity; an archetypal mid-1930s post office.

Though the Hollywood Station is not quite 50 years old, it possesses exceptional architectural significance for Hollywood, and California as a whole. The building is an almost archetypal example of Starved Classicism, and retains substantial integrity of design, location, setting, feeling and association. The minor additions to the front elevation and the workroom addition have not impaired the structure's aesthetic integrity. The use of a central, raised entrance surrounded by two lowered wings was characteristic of post office construction throughout the first four decades of this century, and is found in strongly Beaux-Arts classical buildings as well as later Italianate and Starved Classical buildings. The Hollywood Station retains a greater debt to Beaux-Arts notions of classicism than most Starved Classical buildings, which had Art Deco-derived ornament. In the present building, the ornament consists of fluting on the pilasters and a belt course decorated with acanthus patterns. Though Hollywood retains several Art Deco-inspired buildings, the post office is a unique classical building in modernist clothing, and thus possesses exceptional local architectural significance.

SCULPTURE

The Hollywood Station contains a low-relief wood panel by Gordon Newell and Sherry Peticolos. The relief depicts an androgenous figure holding two horses, perhaps alluding to the Pony Express though no mail bags are represented. The style of the sculpture is consistent with the representational "social realist" of most federally-sponsored work in the 1930's. The panel was commissioned under the Treasury Relief Art Program, which also awarded the same two artists contracts for sculpture in the Colton, Inglewood, and San Fernando Post Offices. The artists are not included in standard art bibliographies.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gebhard, David; Winter, Robert, " A Guide to Architecture in Los Angeles and Southern California", Santa Barbara, Peregrine Smith, Inc, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	3 7 6 3 1 0	3 7 7 2 9 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is located on Lots 3,4,5,6, 7,11,12,13 por. 14; Block 15, A.J. Pickerell Tract. The site has a 188.33' northern border, a 234.73' frontage on Wilcox Avenue, a 172.1' frontage on Selma Avenue, while the western border proceeds north 110.0', then west 16.26', and then north 124.73'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
NA	NA	NA	NA

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Doug Robertson, Planner

ORGANIZATION

Beland/Associates, Inc.

DATE

April 27, 1984

STREET & NUMBER

16 S. Oakland Ave. #204

TELEPHONE

(818) 796-8093

CITY OR TOWN

Pasadena

STATE

CA 91101

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES___ NO___ NONE___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/11/85

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

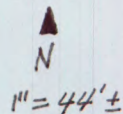
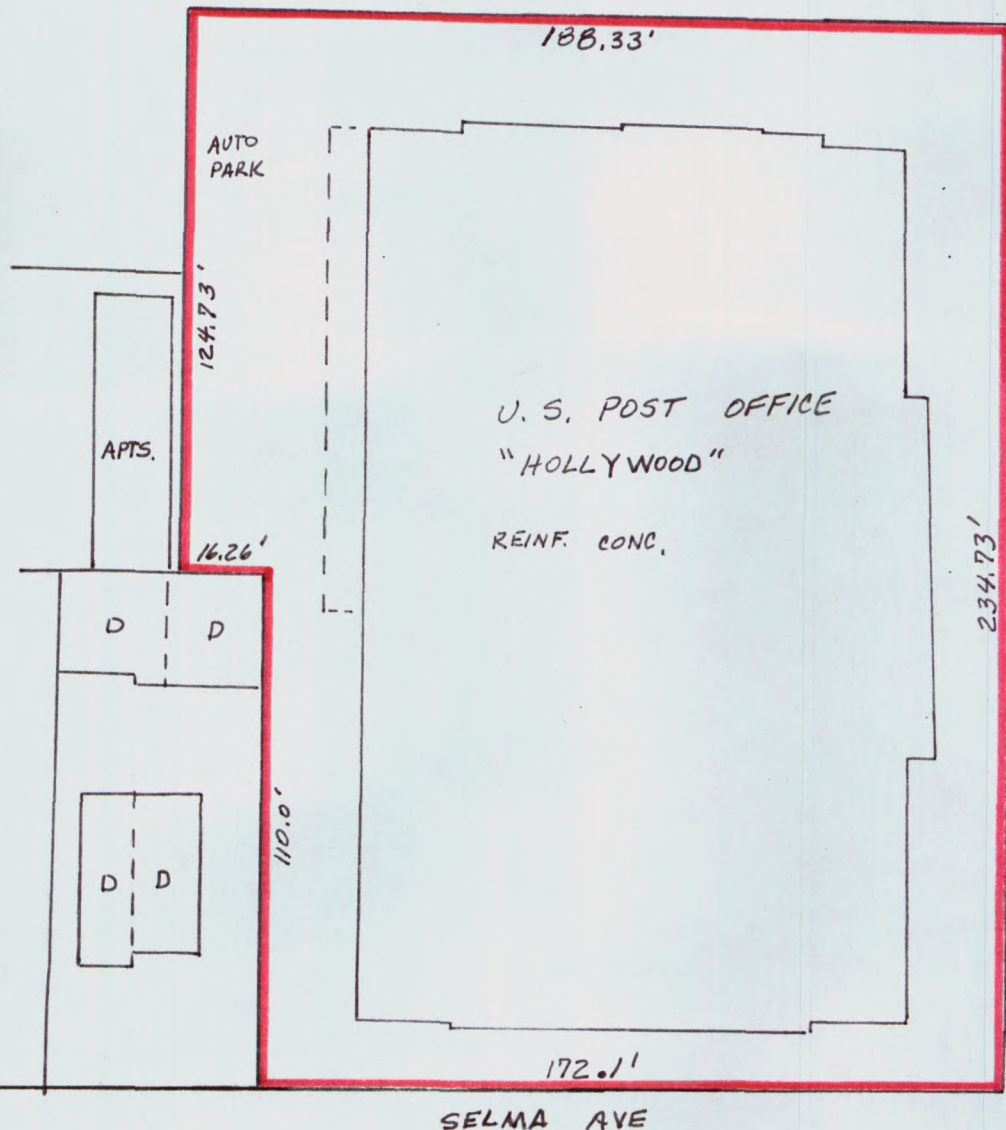
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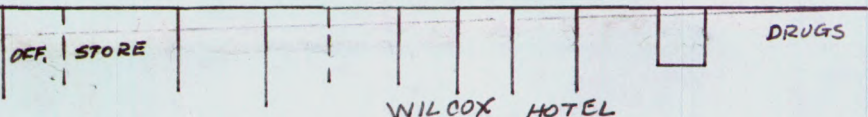
JAN 11 1985

DATE ENTERED

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Hollywood Stat.



Note: Post office site outlined in red.



Source: Sanborn Map, Hollywood Book, page 25, 1913-52; Geography Department, California State University, Northridge, Calif.